

REFERENCE TITLE: urge enactment; department of peace

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-seventh Legislature
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Introduced by
Representatives Lujan, Anderson: Konopnicki, Sinema

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, during the 109th Congress, legislation to create a United
4 States Department of Peace and Nonviolence was reintroduced in the United
5 States House of Representatives, where it has the sponsorship of 62 members;
6 and

7 Whereas, during the 109th Congress, legislation to create a United
8 States Department of Peace and Nonviolence was introduced in the United
9 States Senate, where it has the sponsorship of 2 members; and

10 Whereas, the proposed legislation will establish a cabinet-level
11 Department of Peace and Nonviolence, whose primary function will be to
12 research, educate and facilitate nonviolent conflict resolution solutions
13 that are both domestic and international in scope; and

14 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the state of
15 Arizona by identifying best practices among existing programs throughout the
16 United States and developing new programs addressing preventative measures
17 and treatment of root causes as well as symptomatic problems that relate to
18 the societal challenges of domestic violence, school violence, violent crime,
19 racial or ethnic violence and recidivism; and

20 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the state of
21 Arizona by developing curricula that teaches violence prevention, conflict
22 resolution and mediation to Arizona's schoolchildren; and

23 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will further benefit the
24 state of Arizona by encouraging development and coordination of initiatives
25 from the community, its religious groups and its nongovernmental
26 organizations, which will promote more effective community involvement
27 thereby creating stronger civil society and civic engagement to reduce
28 community violence in Arizona; and

29 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation may benefit the state of
30 Arizona by increasing the ability of the United States to employ nonviolent
31 conflict resolution and other nonviolence strategies as an element of
32 national power, which will reduce the number of conflicts that escalate to
33 armed military conflict; and

34 Whereas, the proposed department will be a streamlined department
35 through the acquisition of the functions, assets and personnel of the Peace
36 Corps, the United States Institute of Peace, the Office of the Undersecretary
37 for Arms Control and International Security Affairs of the Department of
38 State, the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program of the Bureau of
39 Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the SafeFutures program of the Office of
40 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice; and

41 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation may benefit the state of
42 Arizona by eventually reducing spending on armed military conflict, thereby
43 redirecting funds to the states and cities.

44 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
45 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1 1. That the United States Congress enact the Department of Peace and
2 Nonviolence legislation to aid our communities in reducing violence.

3 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
4 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
5 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
6 the State of Arizona.